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Europäisches
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Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Ricoh Company Ltd.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☐ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 3A

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 6 361 038 B1 (IMADA DAISUKE ET AL) 26 March 2002 (2002-03-26) * the whole document *	1-3, 17, 18	B65H1/04 B65H7/04
A	US 4 888 617 A (OKUZAWA TUGIO) 19 December 1989 (1989-12-19) * abstract; figures 1-3 *	1-3, 17, 18	
A, D	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 07, 29 September 2000 (2000-09-29) & JP 2000 118792 A (RICOH CO LTD), 25 April 2000 (2000-04-25) * abstract *	1-3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B65H

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search

MUNICH

Date of completion of the search

26 May 2004

Examiner

Rupprecht, A

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
A : technological background
O : non-written disclosure
P : intermediate document

T : theory or principle underlying the invention
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
D : document cited in the application
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FILED
3-21-4

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 00 7639

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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26-05-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6361038	B1	26-03-2002	JP 2000327175 A	28-11-2000
US 4888617	A	19-12-1989	JP 63218453 A	12-09-1988
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